

STEPHEN W. HIGGINBOTHOM

POST OFFICE BOX 242
MARIANNA, ARKANSAS 72360

HOME: (870) 295-2370
FARM: (870) 295-9100
MOBILE: (870) 295-0008

FAX: (870) 295-5579
E-MAIL: steveh@cablelynx.com

5-30-11

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners:

As a farmer here in Eastern Arkansas, as well as a former state senator, I take heed of the issues affecting the Natural State—especially in the rural areas that are so often ignored by the politicians. Today I am writing you to look toward the future.

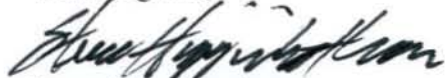
The most significant impact an individual can have on his community is with his voice. I want to speak up on behalf of my neighbors and fellow Arkansans in support of an anticipated merger between AT&T and T Mobile; I feel that this combination could create a network widespread enough to bring mobile broadband technology to nearly every part of Arkansas.

How important is that? Well, as an example, I recently had the heartbreaking experience of touring the local areas damaged by floods with Governor Beebe and Senator Pryor. There are a number of possible applications facilitated by high-speed wireless Internet, such as real-time interactive video, which could have mitigated the danger by enabling more efficient and effective strategies for crisis management. Once the much larger AT&T builds out the necessary networks, applications like these—and many others not even conceived of yet—can be used successfully in natural disasters or other emergency situations.

In the meantime, mobile broadband has the potential to enhance the quality of life for many Arkansans. The average family will have better access to far away resources like distance education or telemedicine. Those out of work will have better opportunities to receive training, search for work, and perhaps even telecommute. And our many farmers and ranchers will benefit from sophisticated agricultural management functions and sales tools to better access to niche markets.

It's time we bring rural Arkansans into the 21st Century. We have the technology if we only had the capacity; this merger can bring that capacity, enough to reach almost all Americans. And it will make the entire telecommunications industry more competitive and responsive to communities that are currently underserved. I urge you to approve of this transaction and help promote further innovation within the private sector.

With Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Higginbotham", written in a cursive style.

Steve Higginbotham

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski

Commissioner Michael Copps

Commissioner Robert McDowell

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker